

# Alaskan Politicians Reply To Nixon's Impending Resignation

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Of the three options open to Nixon, Stevens said he preferred that the President "tough it out," that is, continue with the impeachment process. "There are too many questions that will be raised by resignation," such as franking privileges, Secret Service protection, will Nixon be subject to being called in to criminal and civil cases, will he be subject to damages and so on, Alaska's senior senator said.

"There are so many things that are going to come up down the line. The Constitution provided the process, it should be followed, but I don't think there are too many of us who believe that," Stevens said.

"When he lost his Republican support, he lost everything," Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska said, saying that Nixon's latest tape disclosure had assured that he would be impeached, both in the House and Senate.

"I think it's in the best interests of the nation," Gravel said of the resignation, "both from an economic point of view and with respect to the trauma that a political trial would bring."

"I still think that the newly-released tapes should be released to the nation," Gravel said. "The people should know what went on."

Gravel also said that he does not think Congress should grant immunity from prosecution to Nixon, saying "No person should be above the law. He should be treated like any other citizen."

He also said that Gerald Ford will "breathe a new breath of life into the country by his very presence" and that should be "a very beneficial situation" for the nation.

"Because of the mounting pressure against President Nixon on Capitol Hill, his decision to resign is not totally unexpected, Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, said. "But the personal tragedy for the President in taking this historic step cannot be overlooked. Tonight, he will apparently announce his resignation."

"As I had stated earlier the decision to resign would have to be made by the President and by him alone. I would have preferred to see the Constitutional process of impeachment carried to its final conclusion. The President must be aware that resigning is denying himself the benefit of a defense in the Senate as provided for in the Constitution."

"This is a sad and tragic day for America. It is my fervent hope that the people of this great nation will not dwell on the tragedy of this occasion but rather look to the future and the orderly transfer of Presidential power to Gerald Ford."

Although she says "we've had so much to say for such a long time," state Democratic Chairman Mellie Terwilliger, Tok, had nothing to say today on the probable resignation. "Why don't I wait until he resigns," she said.

"I'll only comment to the point that it would be more fitting and proper to wait and see what his speech contains," Jack Coghill, Republican state chairman from Nenana, said. "I think it's a sad day for the nation," he added.

"I would much rather have seen him ride out the impeachment trial so that the nation could have the total facts of the alleged cover-up known," Coghill said. "I feel that the system that we have under the Constitution is a well thought-out system and his resignation will leave doubt in many people's minds as to just what happened and to what degree he is innocent and to what degree he may be guilty."

"I believe that what's happening today was predestined to happen to some president in the United States," Eldon Ulmer, Alaska's Republican National Committeeman said.

"The conditions are ripe for impeachment of a president today," he said, noting that the "same identical senators, almost to a man," who voted seven times not to

investigate the Bobby Baker case voted to investigate President Nixon.

"I believe and support the Constitution," Ulmer said, "but I wonder about the fairness of a president being judged by a political body, particularly when that body is controlled by people who have been hostile to him for many, many years."

"If anything, it's a sad thing that the President of the United States has to resign," Democratic National Committeeman Cliff Warren said, "but I think under the circumstances it's better for the nation if he does so."

Warren said he didn't think Nixon had anything to gain if he were to remain in office, going through the impeachment process.

"Nixon under this cloud is ineffective," Warren said. "We've reached a stage where we have no leadership. It will help restore more confidence in our political system. It shows our government works. If a man does wrong, he can be removed whether he's President or not."

"No comment," is about the only comment from John Bennett, former

deputy chief of staff to the President. Bennett, keeper of the White House tapes while in Washington, would only add, "I'm just waiting to hear what the President says."

No special military precautions are being taken here for a possible transition of presidential power, according to military officials, and no alerts have been issued.

Col. Roy C. Brunhart, chief of Public Affairs for the Alaskan Command, said this morning, "We have been informed of no alert status at all, and we don't anticipate the necessity of going on any alerts."

Anchorage Department of Transportation agencies were today notified that Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar's six-day trip to Alaska slated to begin tomorrow has been canceled.

A spokesman for Donald Samuelson, special assistant to Brinegar on the West Coast, said the transportation head, along with all other Nixon cabinet members, have "indefinitely canceled" all trips that take them away from Washington.

## Missing Boy Clue Is Told

A 14-year-old boy reported missing last week apparently took a plane to Florida.

According to Mrs. Carol Hall, mother of the missing boy, Timothy Eugene Pittman, the boy was seen boarding a plane with a ticket to Florida.

Mrs. Hall said her son had visited there earlier this summer and may have returned to join his father who lives there. She said she awoke to find him missing July 24.

Word that the boy had left town came to her through city police who were informed by an airline employee, she said.

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## Some Want Resignation

(Continued From Page 1)

for him and I never will." Brad Tusow, another construction worker, said Nixon "was the guy who got caught. He was the victim of circumstance." Tusow, 21, voted for Nixon.

Miss Eleanor Loon, who arrived in Anchorage today from Selawik to have her tonsils removed, said that people in her village think Nixon should be taken out of office.

"He is spending too much money on Watergate problems," she said. And she added that natives are thankful to Nixon for what he did to help them with land claims.

Miss Loon did not vote for Nixon, and neither did Dr. Steve Adler of the Alaska Native Medical Center, known around the hospital for his anti-Nixon views. He thinks Nixon should resign "at this point" because impeachment would drag out the country's trauma.

Although Adler showed little sympathy for Nixon, Mrs. Heather Flynn, another voter who never x'd the box for Nixon, feels, after all is said and done, "just a little bit sorry for him."

"And she feels a little let down about a resignation, which she calls a copout."

"I am a great personal believer in the constitutional process of impeachment. The sadness of resigning is that without the trial in the Senate

the public will never know all the intricacies."

Although she fears a backlash of people loyal to Nixon, the president of the Anchorage League of Women Voters said that from now on a president might "just view his office a little differently, with a little less power."

"The president will look in the mirror — and I'd say shave, but it might be a woman — and say: 'You're not God.'"

Mrs. Alice Richardson, who has lived here for 20 years, also feels sorry for Nixon and his family: "Everybody has value. I don't believe in stomping on a man."

"If we had prayed for our government over the past two years as much as we condemned Nixon, things might be different today," she said.

A visitor to Anchorage was much harder on the man who has been president.

Said Dr. Dorothy Weeks, professor emerita of physics at Wilson College in Pennsylvania, "Nixon degraded the office."

"He is a disgrace to the U.S. He tried to undermine the Constitution."

Although he will "save himself something by resigning," Dr. Weeks agrees with Mrs. Flynn that impeachment would be preferable. "He should go through the process. Then there would be no question that the President is not above the law."

## GREUEL U.S. SENATOR



I would very much appreciate your vote on August 27.

Dick Greuel



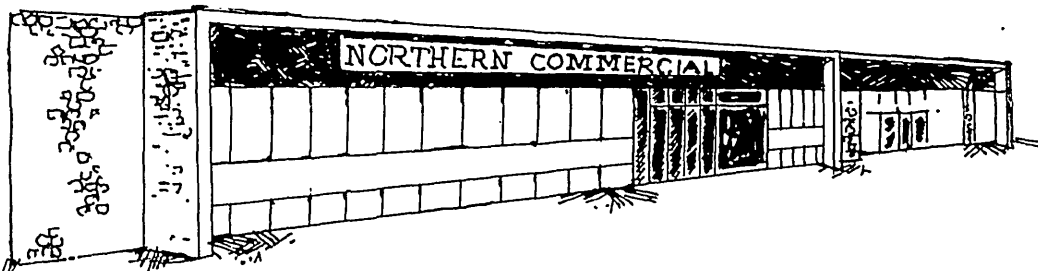
Pol Adv Pd for by Dick Greuel, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, Box 38, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707



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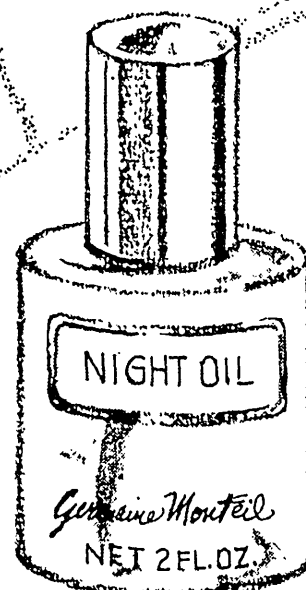
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